

CHAPTER 2

Vision and Objectives

2.0 Introduction

- 2.1 In the context of the trends and issues identified above the Plan has to set an overall direction for land use in the District and respond to the Districts 2020 vision. In particular it must respond to the Vision's aspirations for the role of the city in relation to Leeds and the roles set out for Airedale in the local economy and Wharfedale as a place to live and visit.
- 2.2 The Plan needs to address the national agenda for promoting more sustainable development and in particular the advice in PPG12 which stresses the importance of Development Plans in making a major contribution to the achievement of the Governments objectives for sustainable development.

Aim and Objectives

- 2.3 The aim of the plan is to:
- Devise a Plan which will promote a more Sustainable district
- 2.4 To provide a framework for delivering this aim a series of objectives have been devised which in turn shape the development strategy formed by the principle policies and location strategy.
- 2.5 The objectives are as follows.
- To maximise the potential for the built up areas to meet the development needs of the district
 - To promote the conservation and improvement of the built and natural environment
 - Improve the quality of the built environment through a high standard of design in buildings, streets, public spaces and neighbourhoods, which respects local distinctiveness.
 - To ensure the provision of adequate housing to meet the districts needs
 - To help promote economic success
 - To provide a location strategy for accommodating development and ensuring environmental protection in a way which promotes access to services and minimises dependence on the private car.
 - To manage the use of the district's natural resources including energy efficiently and with care
 - To help ensure pollution and waste are minimised and managed efficiently

Sustainability Appraisal

- 2.6 The government advises that local authorities should consider the environmental, social and economic impacts of their development plan. PPG12 recommends that the best way to do this is through a sustainability appraisal. The aim of an appraisal is to ensure that sustainable development principles are integrated into the development plan and the policies and proposals together with their impacts on sustainability are properly assessed and taken into account in the preparation of the plan.
- 2.7 The Replacement Plan has been subject to a full sustainability appraisal as part of its preparation in line with government advice. The methodology used was based on advice from DETR, good practice in other development plans and the appraisal framework developed for the review of Regional Planning Guidance. It was also subject to external consultation and validation.
- 2.8 Sustainability Appraisal of the policies contained in the Plan has been carried out at three key stages. Firstly, the policies in the existing UDP were appraised. Secondly, initial drafts of new and revised policies were appraised. Thirdly, the final policies were appraised. By using this iterative process, the policies have been progressively refined.
- 2.9 The site proposals contained in the Plan were appraised to determine their overall sustainability, which together with other considerations, informed site selection and the phasing of housing sites (see paragraph 3.7).
- 2.10 A background document explaining the methodology and summarising the outcome of the appraisal of policies and proposals has been published as a supporting document to this first deposit of the replacement Plan.